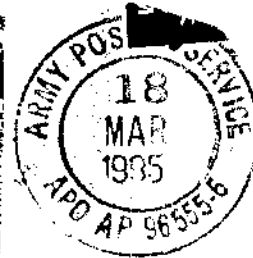


POSTAL RATES:

The long expected increase in U.S. Postal rates to overseas countries came into operation on July 10, 1995. It is assumed that the F.S.M., Palau and the Marshall Islands will bring their rates into line. Commercial covers have already been seen from the F.S.M. and Palau using these rates. The new rates to countries other than Canada and Mexico are:-
 Airmail Letter: 60c for 1oz; \$1 for 1oz
 Postcards and Aerogrammes: 50c
 Other Articles (AO) including Printed Matter by SURFACE routes: 50c per 1oz, 80c for 2oz and \$1 for 3oz.
 There appears to be no surface letter or postcard rates. IRC's redeemed at 60c.
 (My special thanks to Brad Arch for supplying the above information)



Illustration 10/8



Illus. 10/9

ROI NAMUR APO AP 96557 (Marshall Islands U.S. APO)

Bernd Neuhaus has sent me photocopies of two covers he sent to Roi Namur and which received respectively a four-bar datestamp (Illustration 10/8) and a double circle (Illustration 10/9) of the same date. However the double circle bears the Kwajalein APO Zip Code 96555 with the suffix '5'. I have since received a cover from Roi-Namur bearing the same 4-Bar datestamp but with yet another double circle with the Kwajalein Zip Code - this time 96555-8. (Illustration 10/10). The style of lettering of this double circle differs from that used on 96555-4. Since at least 1991 Roi Namur has been using a double circle reading APO AP 96557-4. (Illustration 10/11)



Illustration 10/10



Illustration 10/11

KWAJALEIN APO AP 96555 - U.S. APO Marshall Islands

Thanks to Bryan Jones editor of "Pacifica" I can illustrate a "Directory Section/APO SF 96555-3006" marking applied to the reverse of an undelivered item addressed to APO SF 96555. I guess this marking is no longer used as the designation 'SF' has been replaced by 'API'. (See Illustration 10/13). The two double circles appear to be identical to Illustration 2/11 in edition No. 2 of the Bulletin which included a study of markings used at this office.



Illus. 10/12



PAGO PAGO SAMOA AS 96799:

The Meter Number of the Meter shown in the last edition of the Bulletin as Illustration 9/10 did not reproduce clearly. The Meter Number reads - 3028303.

DIRECTORY SECTION
APO SF 96555-3006

Illustration 10/13

MAJURO, Marshall Islands MW 96960:

Bernd Neuhaus sends a photocopy of the Majuro Double Circle first shown in the Bulletin as Illustration 7/7 out with the date misplaced in relation to the lettering. Bernd wonders if this is a new device or the result of the rubber plate having been removed from the base and refixed. (See Illustration 10/12). Brad Arch has worked at the U.S. Postal service and tells me that it is not unknown for the 'face' to come away from the base of USPS datestamps. He writes "the ODS portion (and on the 4-bar types, the bars) are a single unit of hard rubber glued to a handle with a flat base into which are positioned either 3 or 4 slots for insertion of the date slugs. It is quite possible for the engraved face to become unglued from the base, sometimes being repaired with a rubber band across the killer bars to hold it in place while the new glue is in the process of drying, and it's easily possible, especially for the ring die, to be re-attached out of line with the incised slots, thereby creating the appearance of the 3 or 4 date lines being impressed out of line with the ring die." My own view is that it is worth recording these datestamps even though they are not strictly new because they are clearly 'different' from the original device. Have readers any views on this?

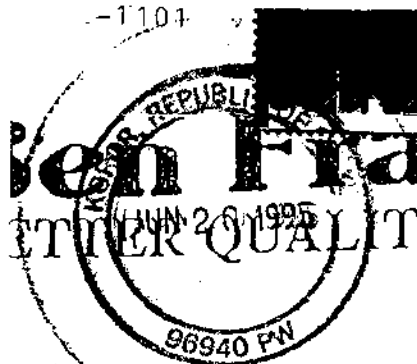


Illustration 10/14



Illus. 10/15

KOLONIA, Pohnpei FM 96941:

At last the new style double circle has surfaced at Pohnpei used as a receiving mark on the reverse of a Registered cover addressed to Pohnpei. (Illustration 10/15). This type of double circle has been in use at Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae for some time - see previous editions of the Bulletin.

KOROR, PALAU FW 96940:

Thanks to Joel Fassier for a photocopy of a new double circle datestamp used a Koror on Jun 20 1995. (Illustration 10/14) Note that the datestamp was applied to a soft surface allowing the outer edge of the base of the datestamp to show. Joel gives the measurement as:- Outer edge of base - 52mm; Outer circle of datestamp 38mm and inner circle of datestamp 30mm.

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